



Rule Up For Discussion

Proposed New Section

WAC 230-04-208

Problem gambling awareness and training fee.

ITEM 15 (a) on the September 10 2004, Commission Meeting Agenda.	Statutory Authority 9.46.070
Who proposed the rule change?	
Staff.	
Why is this rule change needed?	
<p>Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2459, Supplemental Budget Fund Transfer, passed during the 2004 Legislative Session. The bill was to remove \$3 million from the Commission's budget, with \$500,000 of that amount directed to problem gambling treatment programs, if another bill passed (HB 2776). The Commission sent a letter to the Governor supporting problem gambling, but opposing the fund transfer. In the end, \$2.5 million was transferred from the Gambling Revolving Fund; however, the Governor vetoed the transfer of \$500,000 for problem gambling and requested the Commission resume its contributions to problem gambling. The Commission recently authorized an additional \$150,000 for problem gambling training and awareness services in fiscal year 2005.</p> <p>Staff drafted the following rule on behalf of the Commission. At this time, the target is to collect approximately \$200,000 each year from licensees to contribute to the problem gambling helpline, and training and awareness services as authorized under RCW 9.46.071. The proposed rule would provide a stable funding source and raise approximately \$232,000 for use toward these services.</p> <p>The proposed problem gambling education and awareness fee would be assessed on licensed charitable/nonprofit and commercial organizations and not individual licenses, as the fee would be minimal on individuals.</p> <p><u>Change made after the August meeting.</u></p> <p>September Agenda Version: Language was added to the title of the rule to clarify that the fee will be used for public awareness and training as set forth in RCW 9.46.071.</p> <p>Housekeeping: "services" was changed to "purposes".</p> <p><u>Attachments:</u></p> <p>Examples of how much the proposed 2-4% fee will be for some licensees.</p> <p>RCW 9.46.071 Information for compulsive gamblers.</p> <p>Letter from Governor Locke dated April 1, 2004 (see page 4).</p>	
Statements against the proposed rule change.	
At the August Commission meeting, Dolores Chiechi, representing the Recreational Gaming Association, testified against the proposed fee.	
Which licensees will be directly impacted?	
Licensed commercial and charitable/nonprofit organizations.	
What are the potential impacts to the agency?	
Some impacts to process fees collected. However, it will also offset the need for additional cuts in the agency's budget to fund problem gambling services.	
Staff recommendation.	
Further discussion.	
Proposed effective date.	
June 30, 2005.	